FFA LEADERSHIP FOR AMERICA

South Carolina's

Young Farmer & FFA

Magazine

SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

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South Carolina's
Young Farmer & FFA
Magazine

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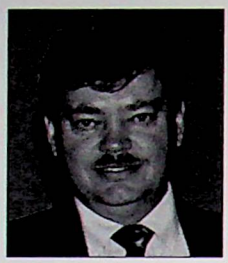
On the Cover: The 1994-95 South Carolina FFA State Officers Team poses with National FFA President Curtis Childers after a luncheon held in Clemson, SC in honor of both retiring and newly elected state officers.

Notes from the Executive Secretary

To FFA Members

by Dr. Dale A. Law



Congratulations to the nearly 600 FFA members and their advisors who attended the 67th Annual Convention of the South Carolina Association of FFA. The convention provided an opportunity to recognize many of you for your outstanding achievements during the past year. A special congratulations to those receiving their State FFA Degree and to the Star Farmer and Star Agribusiness recipients.

From a strong field of candidates, an outstanding slate of officers were elected to serve you during the 1994-95 year. Those elected and their offices are as follows: President - John Helms (McBee), Vice-President - Carrie Raines (Abbeville), Secretary - Stony Oswald (Wagener-Salley), Treasurer - Russell Hawkins (Holly-Hill Roberts), Reporter - Grier Sandifer (York), and Sentinel - Chad Warren (Lexington).

The new team began working for you immediately after their election on Friday. They participated in a joint vocational student organizational leadership institute the following Tuesday and Wednesday in Lexington. During this time, they also began planning their participations in the annual FFA Leadership Conference at Cherry Grove Camp held the following week.

July 11-15, your state officers will be attending the National Leadership conference for State Officers in Panama City Beach, FL to receive additional leadership training. Being a state officer involves a major commitment of time and energy, but is repaid many times over in leadership training and recognition. You are encouraged to call on your state officers to help with local leadership training in your chapter.

Best wishes for the remainder of the summer.

PLEASE WRITE!

Your newly elected State Officers were chosen to serve your needs as representatives of the South Carolina Association of FFA. Feel free to contact them at the following addresses with program ideas, comments, suggestions, or invitations to chapter activities. They're eager to hear from you!

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South Carolina FFA
871 Sandifer Road
York, SC 29745

Chad Warren, Sentinel
South Carolina FFA
349 Porth Circle
Lexington, SC 29072

A Word From the President

There is an old song from the 1970s which says,

"They say that all good things must end,
some day, Autumn leaves must fall.
But, don't you know, that it hurts me so,
to say good-bye to you,
Wish we didn't have to go....."

The words of this paraphrased song express the feelings of the entire State Officer Team. This past year has been exciting, fun, and action-packed and as your state officers, we hope that every member of the Future Farmers of America Organization in South Carolina has enjoyed this past year as much as we have.

To those chapters who invited one of the state officers into your school, allow me to say a special "thank you." We hope that you enjoyed having us there. Being able to see the FFA in action over the entire state is a fond memory that none of us will ever forget. Many times, while traveling back to Clemson or Abbeville late at night after a meeting in Columbia (or elsewhere in the state), I would find myself thinking that the road would never end. I realize now that these meetings and training sessions were necessary, and the experience and leadership training gained this year will remain with us forever.

As we turn the page on this year in FFA and move beyond the State FFA Convention, let me strongly encourage each member of this organization to be supportive of your local officers, and let me also challenge each of you to continue to run for local and state offices. Strong candidates for the State Officer Team always make the final choice harder, but it makes the team much, much stronger. Each of you should ask yourself, "What do I have to offer my South Carolina Future Farmer of America Organization?" Your answer may surprise you, and you should realize that service to the FFA will not only benefit others, but will also bring you great personal rewards. Anything you want to do or become is already inside you, just looking for a way to develop and get out. Serving on your local level or on the State Officer Team should be a goal of each member. Throughout the state, I have talked with members who have expressed interest in a state office, and this makes me feel very good about our organization. Every person has something to offer, so, " WHY DON'T YOU?"

This year's FFA State Convention was held at Clemson University on June 8th, 9th and 10th. This gathering allowed us to finish out the year's activities as well as make plans for the next year. We renewed old friendships and continued to make new ones, competed in contests, learned new skills, and had a lot of fun all at the same time. We elected a new slate of state officers to serve next year, and those of you that represented your chapters as delegates discussed a wide variety of topics which will affect the Future Farmers of America on both the state and national level.

Let me congratulate each of you that attended the convention and took part in the activities and planning for our future. Together, we can make next year another great year for FFA in South Carolina.

As this year ends, I would again like to thank a lot of people for making my job this year go smoothly. The other members of the State Officer Team, my family, my local chapter in Abbeville, the staff of the State Department of Education, and especially each of you in the local chapters have made my job easy and fulfilling. I have gained far more than I have given, and for this I give each of you my thanks. Serving as your State President has been an experience that I will cherish forever.

National FFA President Visits State FFA Convention

National FFA President Curtis Childers addressed convention participants and took part in award ceremonies at the 1994 South Carolina State Convention held in Clemson in June.

Elected in November 1993 at the National Convention in Kansas City, Childers is a member of the Glen Rose FFA Chapter in Nemo, Texas and a student at Texas A & M University. He has taken a one year leave of absence from his studies to fulfill his obligations as president. This includes traveling around the country (and some parts of the world!) to promote the FFA organization.

Childers' SAE background consists of a market and show hog operation. He is currently pursuing a degree in agricultural development.

Wagener-Salley Dominates at State Livestock Competition

Stony Oswald, Cliff Williamson, Derrick Cooper, and Johnathon Chavis captured the state livestock judging title on Saturday, April 9th at the annual State FFA Livestock Selection and Grading Contest held in Clemson, SC. Traveling from Wagener-Salley High School in Aiken, the team and their advisor, Allen Williams, arrived in Clemson to compete against nineteen other four-member FFA teams for this honor. By the end of the day, they had accumulated a winning score of 974 out of a possible 1200 points.

As the top Palmetto State livestock judging team, they received a plaque and will receive an all-expense paid trip to the National FFA Convention to compete in the National Livestock Contest at the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City, Missouri in November.

Second place was presented to John Herron's Crescent High team who accrued a total of 966 points. And finally, third and fourth place went to Jerry Pace's Britton's Neck chapter (910 points) and Joe Sutton's Indian Land chapter (738 points).

Individual trophies were also awarded to the three members who tallied the highest personal scores with a perfect score being 400. Top honors went to Johnathan Chavis of the Wagener-Salley Chapter (340), Anna Littlejohn of the Crescent Chapter (339), and Vince Pace of the Britton's Neck Chapter (331).

The competition culminated the study and work on selection and grading of beef cattle and swine by students enrolled in agricultural education courses. It provides the opportunity for them to demonstrate the livestock selection and grading skills learned in the classroom. Each team judged and graded seven classes of swine and beef cattle which were provided by Clemson University.

Local arrangements for the event and the official placings were made by Dr. C.W. Foley and other members of the Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences Department staff. Clemson's Block and Bridle Club also helped coordinate the contest.

Lowcountry Welcomes Young Farmers

After months of planning and organization, the Colleton-Bamberg Chapter of the South Carolina Young Farmer Association will host the 1994 Young Farmer Summer Tour in Walterboro, South Carolina on July 29-30th.

With "Take a Tour of the South Carolina Lowcountry" as the underlying theme of this year's tour, guests will travel daily from the Comfort Inn, located on S.C. 63 and I-95, to several different sites around the lowcountry area to participate in guided tours.

Scheduled stops include Westvaco's Bluff Trail for a cross-section of lowcountry woodlands, a watermelon farm and produce packing shed, a commercial ostrich and emu farm, and the Bonnie Doone Plantation, a true lowcountry marvel.

Special room rates of $28.00 plus tax per night have been booked and can be obtained by Young Farmers and their guests by calling the Comfort Inn at (803) 538-5403 and mentioning the Summer Tour when making reservations. Check-in and registration will be held on the afternoon of the 29th. For more information, please contact the Clemson University Extension Service Office at (803) 549-2596.

Are YOU An Active Member?

Are you an active member
the kind that would be missed
Or are you just contented
that your name is on the list.
Do you attend the meeting
and mingle with the crowd
Or do you stay at home
and gripe both long and loud.
Do you take a part
to help your chapter along
Or are you the one that is satisfied
to be the kind to just belong.
Do you ever go to visit
a member who is sick
Or leave the work for just a few
and talk about the clique?
There is quite a program scheduled
that means success if done
And it can be accomplished
with the help of everyone.
So attend the meetings regularly
and help with hand and heart.
Don't just be a member
but take an active part.
Now think this over member
are we right or are we wrong?
Are you an active member
or do you just belong?

Anonymous

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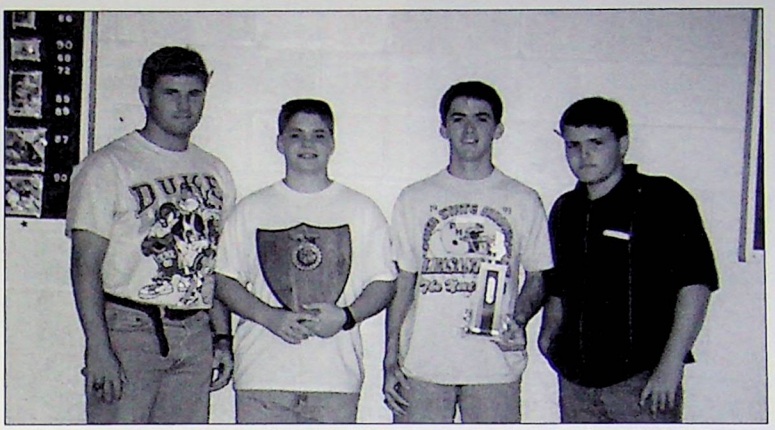
Belton-Honea Path Hosts State Forestry Contest



1994 State Forestry Contest Winners - Pleasant Hill High School: (L-R) Advisor Ben Snipes, Nicholas Lewis, Cory Owens, and Spencer Altman.

Redeeming themselves after an extremely close second place finish against Ware Shoals last year, the Pleasant Hill FFA Forestry Team walked away from the State Forestry Contest in Belton-Honea Path, SC with top honors on May 7th.

Second place, State Forestry Contest - Hillcrest High School (Simpsonville): (L-R) Advisor Clark Woods, Jennifer Koch, Catherine Flannigan, Scott Sheaffer, and David Impson.

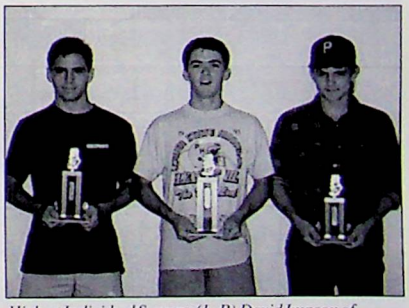
Having missed first place by a mere three points last year, Advisor Ben Snipes' team comprised of Nicholas Lewis, Cory Owens, and Spencer Altman arrived at the competition determined to return home with the first place trophy—and this time they succeeded! For the second straight year, Cory Owens placed highest among individual scorers.

Hillcrest's team (Simpsonville) finished up in second place and Belton-Honea Path's team came in third in overall state standings. In addition, second and third place for the highest individual scores were presented to David Impson of Hillcrest/Simpsonville and Tim Blackwell of Cherokee Technology Center respectively.

Among the various areas in which they were tested, students had to show exceptional aptitude with Forest Business Management Problems, Tree Identification, Tree Measurement, Tree/Forest Disorders and Timber Stand Improvements.

Mr. Curt Wyman, an Anderson County Forester, and Ms. Suzanne Holmes, a teacher at Strom Thurmond High School, assisted students in the competition partially sponsored by the State Forestry Commission.

For their efforts, the Pleasant Hill team receives an expense paid trip to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City in November where they will represent the Palmetto State at the National Forestry Contest.



Highest Individual Scorers: (L-R) David Impson of Hillcrest (second); Cory Owens of Pleasant Hill (first); and Tim Blackwell of Cherokee Technology Center (third).

FFA Develops

★ Premier Leadership

★ Personal Growth

★ Career Success

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South Carolina Aquaculture

Prior to construction of its hatchery, nursery, and growout facilities, approximately seventeen acres of land were purchased on James Island near Charleston, SC for the site of Atlantic LittleNeck Clam Farms.

Editor's Note: *Many thanks to Betsy Sheehan and Dick Felder of the SC Department of Agriculture for supplying the necessary information and photos for this article.*

One of the fastest growing agricultural industries in the United States, aquaculture has has experienced tremendous growth over the last ten years, particularly in South Carolina. According to Raymond Rhodes of the S.C. Marine Resources Center, since 1989 commercial aquaculture output more than tripled in production and market value in the Palmetto State.

Because of the mild climate in summer and winter, with average temperatures ranging from 80 degrees to 46 degrees, our geographic location is extremely conducive to virtually year-round cultivation of both warm and cold-water species of fish and shellfish. The growing season for cold-water species ranges from fall to early spring throughout the Piedmont and Upper Coastal Plains, while the season for warm-water fish extends from the beginning of April to the end of November.

In addition, the overall topography of our state allows for the production and cultivation of many different species. 35,000 acres of suitable commercial catfish and crawfish sites and 216,000 acres of marine environments located along the Atlantic coast provide perfect growth environments for the farming of aquatic animals. Species produced include shrimp, crawfish, hybrid striped bass, and clams. The diversity of these species and the fact that they are found in few other states are two of the strong points of this South Carolina industry. As growing seasons come and go, those areas that may experience setbacks in the marketplace are usually offset by other areas that experience a windfall during their production cycle.

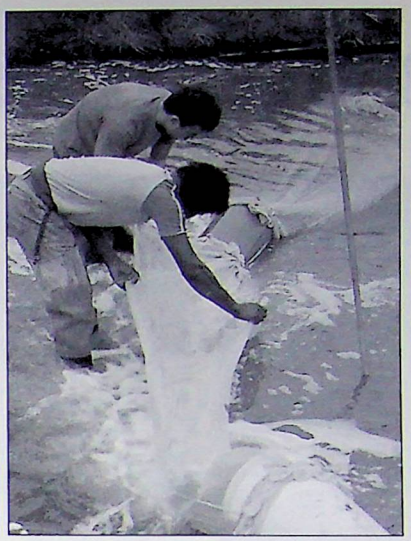
As an industry that is supported by mostly out-of-state markets, the money that aquaculture pulls in delivers added benefits to South Carolina's rural farming communities as those dollars are turned over within the state. Rhodes calculates that even if total aquaculture sales in the Palmetto State increase by only 10% each year, then by the year 2000 this industry will have had an estimated $17 million impact on this state's economy. And even more importantly, aquaculture's contribution to diversifying the South Carolina economy is providing needed job opportunities, particularly in the rural communities.

The commitment of state agencies such as the State Development Board, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture, along with Clemson, USC, the College of Charleston, and other state associations that are involved in the water farming industry and their combined efforts in research, marketing, and extension

service support are key factors in the success of this industry. Because of their work, South Carolina is now the home of one of the largest, state-of-the-art research and development facilities for mariculture, the Waddell Mariculture Center located near Hilton Head Island. And just a few hours away in Charleston County, Atlantic LittleNeck ClamFarms operates a hatchery, nursery and market preparation facilities for the cultivation of the hard clam. Currently employing approximately 75 people and investing a total of about $3.5 million into the local economy each year, Atlantic Farms is South Carolina's largest commercial aquaculture operation and is expected to be the largest mollusk producer in North America within the next couple of years.

Since the days of rice and mill pond oysters, aquaculture has been a familiar practice in South Carolina. And since the General Assembly declared "Aquaculture is Agriculture" in the late 1980s, it has been a significant part of agricultural development in the Palmetto State. In fact, at the World Aquaculture Society Annual Meeting in 1989, South Carolina was praised as a leading state in the mariculture industry and its commitment to and potential in the industry was highlighted.

From farmers and fishermen to researchers and biologists, a world of opportunities are continually opening up in the aquaculture industry. For more information about career opportunities in this field, feel free to contact any of the following agencies or associations:



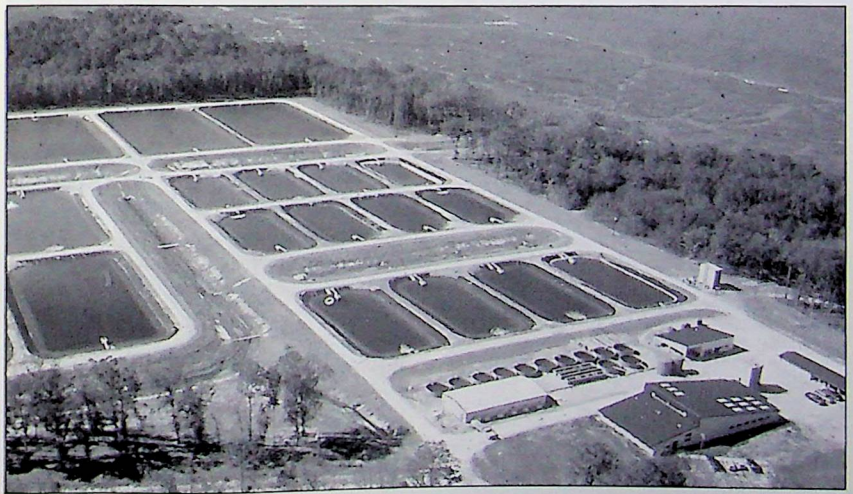
Employees at Barbara Stargill's Shrimp Farm in Jasper work to harvest a crop of mature shrimp.

SC Aquaculture Association
P.O. Box 11280
Columbia, SC 29211

SC Wildlife and Marine Resources Dept.
P.O. Box 167
Columbia, SC 29202

SC Crawfish Association
P.O. Box 129
Camden, SC 29020

SC Shrimp Growers Association
Route 1
Box 354-E
Ridgeland, SC 299936



Completed in 1984, the Waddell Mariculture Center develops propagation and farming techniques for commercial aquaculture and produces juvenile fish for use in fishery management and stock evaluation by the Marine Resources Division.

SC Aquaculture Association

The South Carolina Aquaculture Association represents all areas of the aquaculture industry from catfish, crawfish, and shrimp to hybrid striped bass, clams and oysters. Members include producers, suppliers, educators, regulatory agencies, government representatives, and other interested individuals.

A non-profit group formed in 1989, the association's goals are to unite all segments of the industry and to represent mutual interests. They stay abreast of industry issues and concerns such as legislation, technology and research, regulation and the environment.

Several memberships to the SCAA are available and open to any person who is interested and/or involved in aquaculture. Active Membership is available for those persons who actively engage in the practice of and who derive a portion of their income from aquaculture and includes membership in the National Aquaculture Association and fees are $35.00 per year. Associate Membership is offered at $15.00 per year for individuals who are associated with the industry and have an interest in the purposes and objectives of the association. Student Memberships of $5.00 per year are also available, as well as Sustaining Memberships for those individuals, partnerships, and corporations who contribute additional funds in support of the association.

Membership applications can be obtained by contacting Betsy Sheehan at the following address:

Betsy Sheehan
Aquaculture Coordinator
SC Aquaculture Association
P.O. Box 11280
Columbia, SC 29211

Future Farmers 67th A

Making a Positive Difference!

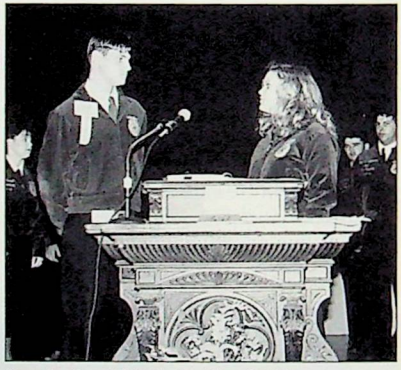
Though the doors had barely closed behind the 67th Annual State FFA Convention held June 8-10 at Clemson University, plans were already underway for another exciting year of FFA activities and events. Immediately kicking off their new year with plans for the upcoming Leadership Camp in Cherry Grove, SC, the newly elected State Officer Team headed to the conference table just hours after the final general session of the convention was over to begin mapping out schedules for the coming year!

For many advisors, members, and friends of the FFA, the annual event always brings many mixed emotions. Every year, this gathering provides a wonderful opportunity to recognize both individual and chapter accomplishments, compete in state contests, receive awards and scholarships, make new friends, and say good-bye to old ones. At this year's meeting, over 485 members and guests were present to support the FFA.

The first general session of the convention brought a variety of notable speakers and guests to the Tillman Hall auditorium. Keynote Speaker Willie Jeffries, the S.C. State Head Football Coach, joined Dr. Barbara Nielsen, Superintendent of the State Department of Education, and Leslie Tindal, State Commissioner of Agriculture, in congratulating the FFA Association on its continued success in the educational arena and they all strongly urged each and every member to set goals and develop to their fullest potential educationally as well as personally. In addition, Dr. George Carter, Director of Undergraduate Studies at Clemson, welcomed everyone to the university and encouraged careers in agriculture and academic futures at Clemson.

Without a doubt, one of the most enjoyable highlights came with the arrival of National FFA President, Curtis Childers on the second day of the convention. A student at Texas A & M University, Childers has toured the country (and even Japan) representing

State Commissioner of Agriculture D. Leslie Tindal praises FFA members for their contributions to the agricultural community and urges them to strive for success.

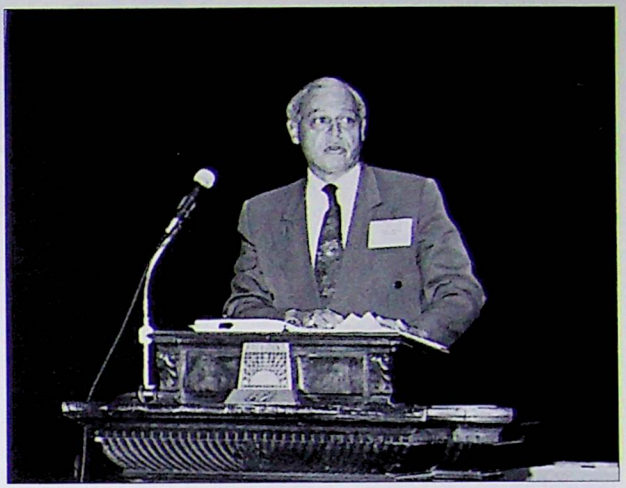


Outgoing State FFA Vice President Faith Lawrimore congratulates Russell Hawkins as he is installed as State Treasurer.

1993-94 State Officers congratulate State Public Speaking Contest Winner Lynn Hicks of the Lexington ATC FFA Chapter.

nnual State Convention

This highly talented quartet from Holly Hill High School entertained convention members during breaks in the general sessions. From left to right, they are: Lisa Butler, Jeremy Ham, Tonya Smalls, and Dwayne Barnes.



Mr. Willie Jeffries, the Head Football Coach at South Carolina State University, delivered a humorous but motivational address as the keynote speaker at the opening convention session.

The James F. Byrnes FFA Chapter (Advisor G.P. Jones) recieves the Superior Chapter Award from the State Officers Team.

(L-R) National FFA President Curtis Childers reviews the agenda for an upcoming award ceremony with State Vice-Presidents Christopher Hicks and Joey Gunter, and State President David Nixon.

Warren Larrimore presents his parents with the Honorary State FFA Degree.

The 1994-1995 State Officers Team (L-R): Vice President Grier Sandifer, President John Helms, Vice President Carrie Raines, Vice President Russell Hawkins, Vice President Stony Oswald, and Vice President Chad Warren.

Future Farmers 67th Annual State Convention (continued)

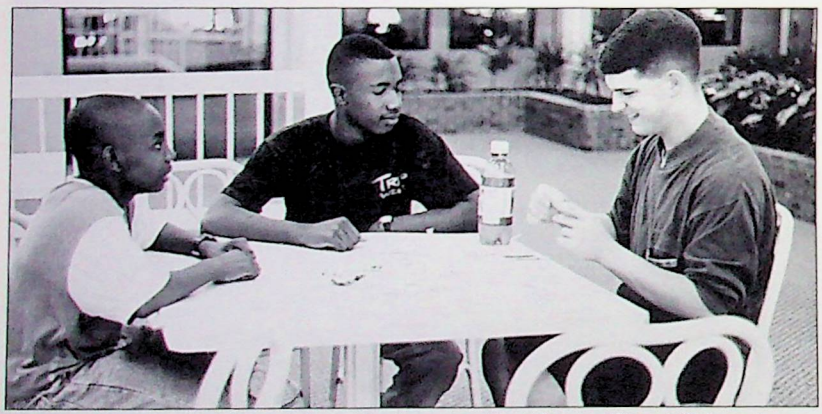
the National FFA Organization since November 1993. Addressing the audience, he related some of the more comical, as well as somber, experiences he encountered growing up in Texas and explained how he continued to draw upon those experiences throughout his years as a young adult and FFA member.

"We have the ultimate control of the things that we do. By having a genuine concern for other people...I can make a positive difference. No matter what negative things may happen to me, I'm going to respond positively."

- *Curtis Childers*
  National FFA President

Childers stressed teamwork and unity between FFA members and their chapters, and urged them to take advantage of whatever opportunities they were presented with and to cherish those experiences forever. He concluded his

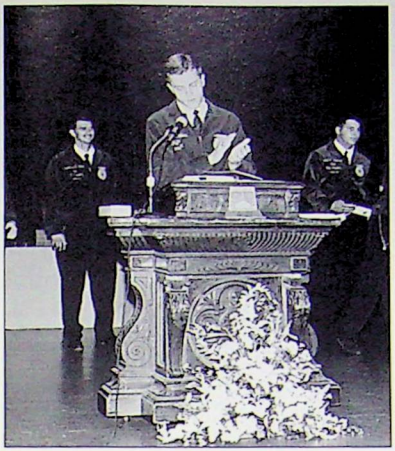
Hillcrest (Sumter) Advisor Billy Keels register his chapter upon arrival at Clemson University.



Like many other chapters, Reggie Graves (l), Jerome Woodberry (c), and David Price (r) of Britton's Neck rented rooms at one of the area hotels instead of staying on campus. Here, Price teaches the others a card game.

South Carolina FFA Alumni meet to approve the Constitution & Election of the first Alumni Council.

National FFA President Curtis Childers "claps" the theme song to the Lone Ranger for FFA members.



Curtis Childers announces James Coble of Hillcrest (Greenville) as the Agricultural Proficiency Award Winner for Dairy Production. Coble also won the 1994 State Star Farmer Award.

first visit to South Carolina by presenting the National Chapter Safety Awards, the State Star Farmer Awards, and the Star in Agribusiness Awards to FFA recipients.

In addition to the multitude of award ceremonies held during the three-day event, convention activities also included the delivery of retiring addresses by the outgoing 1993 State Officer Team, musical entertainment provided by FFA'ers, door-prize drawings, and a reception and dance sponsored by the S.C. Farm Bureau. Chapters also had the chance on Thursday to tour several nearby agribusinesses and facilities including the College of Agriculture and University Athletic Facilities, the Ryobi Plant, a nuclear plant, and the S.C. Botanical Gardens.

The final day of the convention dawned with the much anticipated installation of the 1994 State FFA Officer Team. As officer candidates, they participated in a week long process involving nominating committee interviews, a written exam, and scrutinization of their leadership abilities, appearance, agricultural proficiency, and other factors. In the end, a diverse group of officers from different agricultural backgrounds were chosen to lead the FFA into the coming year. The six outstanding officers are: John Helms, President [McBee]; Carrie Raines, Vice-President [Abbeville]; Grier Sandifer, Reporter [York]; Russell Hawkins, Treasurer [Holly Hill]; Stony Oswald, Secretary [Wagener-Salley]; Chad Warren, Sentinel [Lexington].

(L-R) Britton's Neck FFA Advisor Jerry Pace and chapter member Lance Robertson receive the Governor's Citation Award for their BOAC project. Robertson was also the recipient of the State Individual BOAC Award.

State FFA Degree Recipients wait for the awards presentation to begin.

Wagener-Salley Advisors Steve McGaha and Ben Snipes receive the State Officers' Citation from chapter member Faith Lawrimore.

Walter McKinney, President and CEO of the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, awards the BOAC Gold Emblem to the Furman-Manchester FFA Chapter.

The convention sessions weren't all business! Newly elected 1994-95 State FFA President John Helms presents Heather Golden of the Wagener-Salley FFA chapter with a radio/cassette player that she won as a door prize during the final meeting of the convention.

1994 State FFA Convention Award Winners

PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD:
Lynn Hicks [Lexington ATC]

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP:
Grier Sandifer [York]

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AWARD:
Marion FFA Chapter

NATIONAL CHAPTER SAFETY AWARDS:
Loris [Bejamin Hardee, Advisor]
Furman-Manchester [Drefus Williams, Advisor]

AGRISCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR:
Al Gray [Pendleton]

STATE WINNING TEAMS:

FORESTRY:
Pleasant Hill [Steven McGaha, Advisor]

LIVESTOCK:
Wagener-Salley [Allen Williams, Advisor]

SOILS:
Lexington ATC
[Tommy Harmon, Advisor]

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT:
Britton's Neck [Jerry Pace, Advisor]

FLORICULTURE:
Rock Hill [Susan Sanford, Advisor]

NURSERY/LANDSCAPE:
Rock Hill [Susan Sanford, Advisor]

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS:
Wagener-Salley [Allen Williams, Advisor]

CREED SPEAKING AWARD:
Robert McManus [Lexington ATC]

BOAC AWARDS:

GOLD EMBLEM:
* Britton's Neck [Jerry Pace, Advisor]
* Furman-Manchester [Drefus Williams, Advisor]
* Pelion [Frank Stover, Jr., Advisor]
* McBee [Pat Earle, Advisor]
Rock Hill [Susan Sanford, Advisor]
Clover [Chris Edge, Advisor]

SILVER EMBLEM:
Latta [Keith Cox, Advisor]
Lake City [Al Clarke, Advisor]
Travelers Rest
[Jason Wiggington, Advisor]
Belton-Honea Path
[Glenn Stevens, Advisor]
Hillcrest/Sumter
[Billy Keels, Advisor]
Boiling Springs
[Dennis Haltiwanger, Advisor]

BRONZE EMBLEM:
Florence Career Center
[Bill Mixon, Advisor]
Chesterfield
[Olin Coskrey, Advisor]
Allendale-Fairfax
[Willie Capehart, Advisor]
Hemingway
[Kenneth Burgess, Advisor]
Johnsonville
[Harmon Cooper, Advisor]
Sumter Career Center
[John Weathers, Advisor]

BOAC GOVERNOR'S CITATION:
Britton's Neck FFA Chapter

BOAC INDIVIDUAL AWARD:
Lance Robertson [Britton's Neck]

STAR FARMER AWARDS:
* James Coble, Hillcrest/Greenville [Dist. I]
Anthony Callahan, York [Dist. II]
Rebecca Leaird, McBee [Dist. III]
Derrick Cooper, Wagener-Salley [Dist. IV]

STAR AGRIBUSINESS AWARDS:
Daniel Styron, Pendleton [Dist. I]
* Grier Sandifer, York [Dist. II]
Ryan Graham, Marion [Dist. III] Bryan Campbell, Holly-Hill [Dist. IV]

INDIVIDUAL FFA AWARDS:
Jason Bridwell [James F. Byrnes]
Scott Gantt [Pelion]
Bobby Richardson [Britton's Neck]
Teressa Williams [Aiken]

AGRICULTURAL ELECTRIFICATION AWARD:
David Watts, Gilbert [Dist.II]
Lance Powers, Lamar [Dist. III]
Larry Rider, Edisto [Dist. IV]

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AWARD:
James F. Byrnes FFA Chapter
[Paul Jones, Advisor]

SUPERIOR CHAPTER AWARDS:
* Belton-Honea Path FFA Chapter [Glenn Stevens, Advisor]
* Travelers Rest FFA Chapter [Jason Wiggington, Advisor]
* McBee FFA Chapter [Pat Earle, Advisor]
* Furman/Manchester FFA Chapter [Drefus Williams, Advisor]

AGRICULTURAL PROFICIENCY AWARDS:

Agricultural Electrification:
Larry Rider [Edisto]

Agricultural Mechanics:
Jack Glenn [Pendleton]

Agricultural Sales and/or Services:
Elvin Freeman [Chesterfield]

Dairy Production:
James Coble [Hillcrest/Greenville]

Diversified Livestock Production:
Scott Sheaffer [Hillcrest/Greenville]

Forage Production:
John McGee [Crescent]

Home and/or Farmstead Improvement:
Anna Lacy Littlejohn [Crescent]

Horse Proficiency:
Tonya Riser [Pendleton]

Nursery Operations:
Chad Warren [Lexington ATC]

Placement in Agricultural Production:
Wayne Powell [Pendleton]

Specialty Animal Production:
Larry Rabon [Green Sea Floyds]

Soil and Water Management:
Patrick Murpy [Midland Valley]

Swine Production:
Craig Whisenhut [Edisto]

Turf and Landscape Management:
Jeremy Moyer [Midland Valley]

*** Denotes State Winners; Forwarded to Nationals**

McBee Chapter Exemplifies Leadership

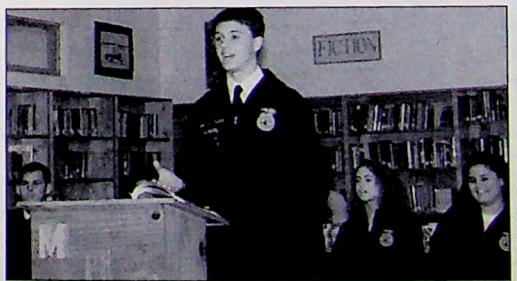
McBee FFA members display the awards presented to them by the State House of Representatives for their outstanding accomplishments.

The McBee High FFA Chapter officers recently held a Leadership Seminar for other club officers at McBee High School. Current and future club officers were encouraged to attend and participate. The purpose of the seminar, which was led by President John A. Helms (also State Star Agribusinessman), was to promote the proper use of parliamentary procedure in all club meetings and in the nominating process.

The FFA officers were involved in all aspects of the seminar including speaking about the proper use of parliamentary procedure during nominations and the importance of setting good examples for younger club members. Emphasis was placed not only on parliamentary procedure and nominations, but also on developing those qualities and skills that make a good leader.

A great deal of time and effort was expended in preparing for the seminar. FFA officers spent several evenings in planning sessions around a table discussing the meeting. Although the work was hard, they managed to spend one planning session out on the lake. It's amazing how productive one can be when not confined indoors! And while fishing, they finalized their plans for the workshop.

Although preparing for the seminar was time consuming, this was not the only activity gaining them recognition during the spring! On March 30, the McBee Soil I.D. Team, along with Chapter President John Helms and State Vice-President Chris Hicks, visited the State House where they were recogized for their accomplishments. Resolutions were written for the Soil I.D. Team for placing in the state contest and for John Helms and Chris Hicks for exhibiting outstanding leadership skills on the chapter and state levels respectively.



Chapter President John Helms conducts the FFA Leadership Seminar with other chapter officers.

FFA Advisor Pat Earle stated, "We are very proud of these members and this chapter for showing such leadership and receiving this type of recognition. The Leadership Seminar was a tremendous success and has a great future at McBee High School. This FFA Chapter is hard at work developing the leaders of tomorrow as well as improving the leadership skills of today's leaders."

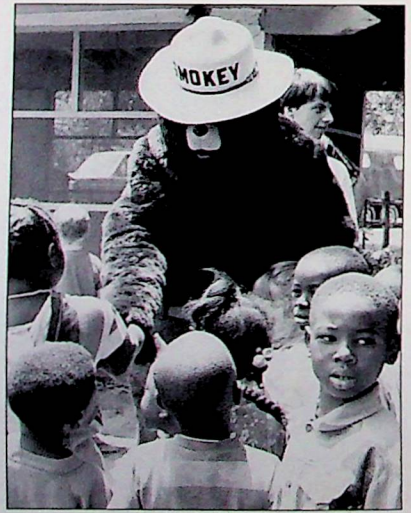
Chapter Efforts Produce Award Winning Project...Year After Year

Mrs. Tindal, a teacher at the Croswell School, helps one of her students (Eden) hold a baby chick to show her classmates.

One visit to the Furman-Manchester FFA Farm and Environmental Show is all it takes to see why this chapter continues to win countless BOAC awards at the state and national level each year.

Started over 16 years ago, the Environmental Show is held each year at FFA Advisor Drefus Williams' Old Spain Ranch in Sumter, SC. It all began when Mr. Williams' daughter brought her class home one day to visit the farm, as some of the children had never had the opportunity to see or touch many of the animals found there. Over the years, through the efforts and support of the FFA chapter and local community, the show has developed into quite a "local extravaganza" as the FFA chapter continually builds on and improves the event.

Coordinated as their main project for the FFA Building Our American Communities Program, the chapter begins making preparations for the event early in the school year by lining up exhibits and guests designed to entertain visitors to the farm. Approximately 77 chapter members worked as a team to organize fruit sales and other fundraising activities to help defray the costs of producing the morning and afternoon shows.

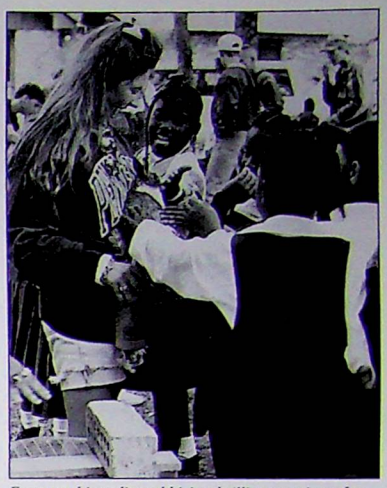


Smokey the Bear, a regular guest at the annual show, stops to greet some friends as he strolls around the farm.

Public announcements, phone contact, and invitations were utilized well in advance to invite 53 different schools from around Sumter, Lee, Clarendon and Kershaw counties. "Because of the limited amount of space available for parking, the earlier the announcements and phone calls are made, the more time the schools have to arrange for bus transportation," stated BOAC Chairperson Charles Houston. Houston also initiated a phone call to the school district which resulted in television coverage for a May segment on ETV and another spot on a local cable station! With leadership from individuals like this, it's no wonder the show continues to be a tremendous success year after year.

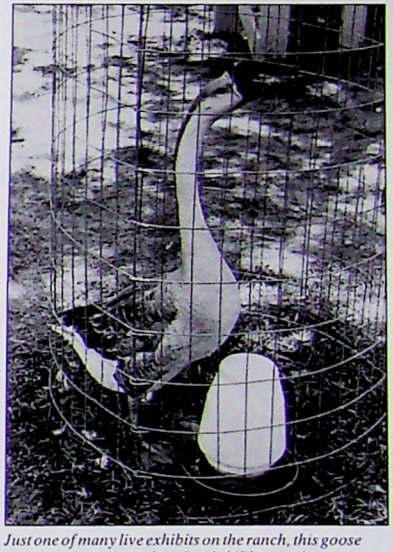
Besides the displays of baby chicks, rabbits, ducklings, pigs, turkeys, and geese, the schoolchildren were able to view reptiles such as snakes and lizards as well. There were also exhibits from organizations like the South Carolina Forestry Commission who manned a

Advisor Drefus Williams (center) introduces Woodsey the Owl to the crowd of admirers at the Old Spain Ranch.



Even touching a live rabbit is a thrilling experience for some of the visitors to the Environmental Show.

The Furman-Manchester FFA Chapter provided much appreciated refreshments to all of the school groups and visitors to the show.



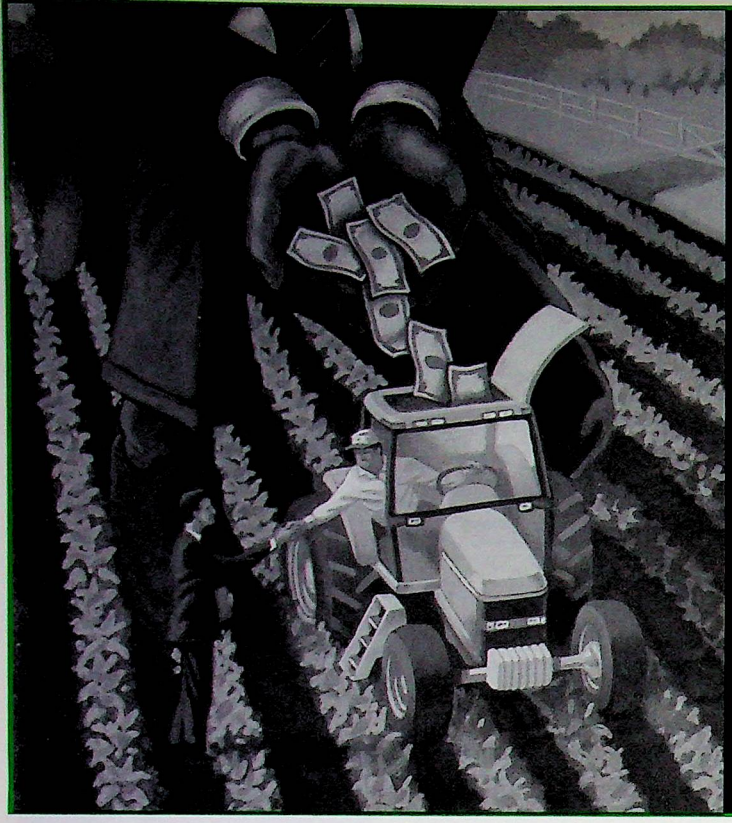
Just one of many live exhibits on the ranch, this goose was as curious about the school children as they were about him!

"hands on" activity booth that was designed to increase awareness of the many different sizes and shapes of leaves. However, by far, the most popular and perhaps most visited attraction at the show is always the chaperoned horse ride. FFA members helped the children mount the horses and accompanied them on rides around a pond located on the farm. This was definitely a source of great delight to the all the children, no matter what the age.

Also making a return visit to the show this year, the Sumter County Fire Department brought their mobile Fire Safety House in which they demonstrated the proper fire safety and evacuation techniques. They conducted walk-throughs with the children and showed them how to escape a fire by staying low to the floor and exiting the building immediately. They also demonstrated the danger involved in trying to re-enter the house for personal belongings (i.e.- someone being overcome by smoke inhalation).

Other appearances were made by the Jr. ROTC Color Guard, who conducted the rising of the flag at the opening of the show, and the Sumter Mounted Police who patrolled the grounds on horseback and talked with the children. And in one of the more exciting exhibitions, representatives from nearby Shaw Air Force Base conducted actual demonstrations involving military police dogs and showed how they are trained to protect and attack!

By the end of the day, literally hundreds of people had come and gone taking with them enjoyable memories of a fun and exciting afternoon. For FFA members and guests, it only took one look at the excitement and anticipation on the children's faces to know that the Environmental Show was a big hit! So, if you haven't yet had the opportunity to experience this annual event, start making plans now to attend next year. (Now that you know what you're missing!)



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